

S E C R E T

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY  
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
SOURCES METHODS EXEMPTION 3B2B  
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT  
DATE 2000 2006

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

DATE : 26 FEBRUARY 1985

SUBJECT: Dr. Josef MENGELE {201-994286}

FROM: C/LA/APUB, C

1. In connection with current, highly publicized efforts to locate Subject, U.S. Senator Alfonse D'Amato sent a letter dated 25 January 1985 to the DCI {copy attached} requesting his assistance in retrieving all information on Subject being held by the Agency and predecessor organizations. Sen. D'Amato subsequently requested that the Agency provide him with all information currently available. IMS/FPLG pulled this material together, sanitized it and submitted the package to my office for review. We confirmed that the sanitized documents contained nothing that would jeopardize Agency equities, sources or methods and cleared their passage to Sen. D'Amato's office. These documents were apparently made available to the New York Times and formed the basis for the 26 February article on Subject.

2. The DCI, who was scheduled to testify 26 February on the Hill, requested a backgrounder on Agency involvement in the search for Subject/information on Subject. This office, through C [ ] {AC/LA}, passed the following orally to the DCI at 0930, 26 February.

-- Our Station in C [ ] which is a one-officer, declared Station, has not been tasked nor actively involved in the search for Subject. From time to time, certain information has come to the Station's attention through contacts {agents and liaison services}, and this has been reported to Hqs.

-- C [ ] Station has also reported through the years on efforts of others {primarily press reporters} to locate Subject.

-- Our latest authoritative information comes from a memorandum from Ambassador Davis dated 14 December 1984 {attached}, in which a senior spokesman for the Paraguayan Government purports to tell the Ambassador what he knows about Subject. This memorandum indicates that Subject lived in Paraguay from 1959 until 1965, then moved to Brazil when various "Nazi hunters" were on his trail. Some years later he moved to Portugal, from where he would send Christmas cards to his friends in Paraguay. Around 1980 the cards stopped and many of his friends assumed Subject had died.

-- There are allegations in Agency files that Subject was associated with known drug traffickers in South America, but this has not been substantiated.

3. A 201 file was opened on Subject 26 Feb. 85.

S E C R E T

# Nazi Fugitive Linked To Drug Trafficking

## Two Senators Release CIA Documents

By Bill Peterson  
Washington Post Staff Writer

Josef Mengele, the Nazi doctor known as the "Angel of Death" at the Auschwitz concentration camp, may have been heavily involved in narcotics traffic from his home in Paraguay in the 1970s, according to CIA documents released yesterday.

The declassified material shows that Mengele, the most notorious accused Nazi war criminal believed to be still at large, traveled freely in South America, did not try to hide his identity, and may have lived under the protection of Paraguayan President Alfredo Stroessner.

The Central Intelligence Agency began receiving reports of Mengele's alleged involvement in drug trafficking in 1972, and as recently as 1979 it asked other federal agencies if they had any information on Mengele, wanted for prosecution in West Germany and Israel.

Sens. Arlen Specter (R-Pa.) and Alfonse M. D'Amato (R-N.Y.), who released the documents, charged that federal officials failed to follow up leads about Mengele and asked the U.S. government to lead a worldwide hunt for him. "Nazi atrocities are a chapter in history that the United States wants to sweep under the rug," Specter said. "Nobody really gives a damn about Nazi war criminals."

Mengele, who would be 73, if alive, was a physician and former major in the Nazi secret police who allegedly sent thousands of concentration camp prisoners to their deaths in gas chambers and used others, including many children, in painful medical experiments.

The Simon Wiesenthal Center in Los Angeles has offered a \$1 million reward for information leading to his capture and extradition.

The 28 pages of heavily censored CIA documents provide many fascinating glimpses of Mengele's life, but it is difficult to determine how much of the information is credible or is hearsay.

A 1972 document said that Mengele arrived in Paraguay for the first time in 1951 and lived alternately there and in Brazil, Argentina and Uruguay, working at times as a salesman for a West German farm-machinery firm owned by his family, and as an auto mechanic.

Mengele never tried to hide his identity in his early years in South America and in 1959 was naturalized as a Paraguayan citizen under his own name, another document said. In 1970 the CIA reported rumors that Mengele lived at a well-guarded ranch in eastern Paraguay "protected by Stroessner."

One source told the CIA that Mengele underwent plastic surgery in 1974 and "looks much younger than his age," a document said. The same source said that, in 1968, Mengele lived with Martin Bormann, Adolf Hitler's designated successor, widely believed to have died in Berlin in 1945.

Another source who reportedly knew Mengele well told the CIA that Mengele was "a nice person," who provided free medical care.

Mengele apparently was first brought to CIA attention by a "petty criminal" who told them Mengele, using the name Dr. Henrique Wollman, lived on a farm near Encarnacion, Paraguay, and was heavily involved in narcotics traffic.

In 1979, the CIA's Strategic Narcotics Team submitted an article to the International Narcotics Review mentioning the drug reports. The article was withdrawn because it was based on very circumstantial evidence, according to a CIA memo.